

### **City Manager's Flood Update for August 5, 2014**

#### **WHY IS IT TAKING SO LONG?**

Very early after the flood, City staff and the City Council made a decision to work through the Federal process and seek Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement for our flood damage. Doing so severely slows down the rebuilding process as we have to comply with all Federal reimbursement rules and regulations. This included not starting work until FEMA had documented the damage, waiting for FEMA to give us the go ahead on bidding projects, and waiting for FEMA project review along the way. Had we done any of this work before receiving FEMA approval, we would not have been eligible for reimbursement.

However, when all is said and done we should get almost \$4.1 million reimbursed from the Federal government. This is money that we would have to otherwise find in our City's capital budget. To put it in perspective, that is almost one-fifth of what we spend in an average year on all capital projects. Rather than make significant cuts to our budget we felt it was more responsible to our taxpayers to seek Federal reimbursement even if it slowed down the rebuilding. This process is being used for the Coal Creek Trail repairs, the golf course reconstruction, and the County Road bridge.

#### **COAL CREEK TRAIL**

City staff is still targeting a September 2014 reopening of the Coal Creek Trail. Goodland Construction continues to work on the reconstruction. At this time, some sections are open for use, but if you come to an active work area, please do not enter.

The section of trail going under the railroad tracks (just east of County Road) is under the jurisdiction of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF). This section may require a bit longer to repair as we are waiting for BNSF's approval to complete the work.

The portion of the trail under US 36 has been closed by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) for reconstruction of the underpass in conjunction with work taking place on US 36. This portion of Coal Creek Trail is NOT part of the City's reconstruction project and is not under our control. The

reopening of this section will be done at the discretion of CDOT. They are targeting a September 2015 date.

### **COAL CREEK GOLF COURSE**

Coal Creek Golf Course reconstruction continues with Landscapes Unlimited (LU) (see photos at the end of this report). They are fully mobilized to the site and brought in additional staff for the project in early July. The project includes repairs as a result of the September 2013 flood as well as making some improvements that were previously defined in the Golf Course Improvement Plan. Repairs include work rebuilding ponds, installing new irrigation, and reseeding the course. Currently, LU is placing sod around completed bunkers, greens and tee boxes to hold seed in place and mitigate erosion.

While repairs are the primary concern of the project, the City is considering additional work that may help the course long term. Some of those possible additions include rerouting cart paths, reconstructing the chipping green, adding a new water line for an additional restroom to be built at a later date, and removing outdated timber walls.

The contract with LU includes the company staying on site through the grow-in period to assure the course is ready to open in the spring of 2015.

For everyone's safety and to ensure that none of the newly constructed facilities are damaged during reconstruction, all public access to Coal Creek Golf Course is prohibited.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the [Parks and Recreation Department](#) (303.335.4735). To report someone trespassing on the golf course, please call non-emergency dispatch at 303.441.4444.

### **COUNTY ROAD BRIDGE**

When the flooding last September destroyed the County Road Bridge it forced 3,000 drivers who used that bridge each day to drive a mile out of their way through a residential neighborhood, into downtown and through one of the busiest intersections in town (Pine/HW 42). Public Works, Planning and other staff has been working hard to complete the design and secure approval from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to build a new bridge.

We originally anticipated the new bridge would be in place by summer of 2015. Unfortunately, the process has been slow due to FHWA and CDOT required processes. We lost significant time getting clarification and support for rebuilding to a 100-year flood standard (FHWA originally suggested we simply rebuild what had been there, even though that would have been vulnerable to flooding even less than last year's floods), waiting on CDOT to finalize Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) language, and working through CDOT's expectations for getting the design consultant on board.

However, that does not mean we have been waiting...City Council approved an IGA with CDOT on March 15, 2014. By this IGA the FHWA, through CDOT, will fund 100% of emergency work and 80% of permanent work. City Council approved a contract with LVI Environmental Services, Inc. for the demolition and removal of the County Road bridge with slope stabilization. This work was completed in March and will be 100% reimbursed by the FHWA as emergency work. The road is currently closed and will remain closed until a new bridge is designed and constructed. On July 15, 2014, City Council approved Michael Baker Co. to design the County Road Bridge. Staff held a kick off meeting and Michael Baker Co. has begun with survey and hydraulic analysis.

The current schedule anticipates beginning construction in August of 2015 and finishing between January and March of 2016. Staff currently estimates the total cost of the new bridge to be about \$3.6 million. Consistent with the percentages noted above, we have submitted reimbursement requests to the FHWA to cover 80% of that cost and have submitted a Community Development Block Grant for disaster recovery (CDBG-DR) to cover the remaining 20%.

For any questions regarding this project please contact [Joliette Woodson](#) at 303-335-4603.

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